

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 stand in this application. Claims 1, 4, 5, 10, 13, 19, and 22 are amended. No new matter has been added. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the standing claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 7-9, 16-18, and 25-27 are allowed. Claims 1-3, 6, 10-12, 15, 19-21, and 24 are rejected. Claims 4, 5, 13, 14, 22, and 23 are objected to.

At page 2, paragraph 1, the Office Action indicates that claims 7-9, 16-18, and 25-27 are allowed.

At page 2, paragraph 2, the Office Action indicates that claims 1, 10, and 19 would be in condition for allowance if the following language from claims 4, 13, and 22 is incorporated into claims 1, 10, and 19, respectively:

applying an atomic rule to recognize a second set of
the simulation signals;

applying a non-atomic rule to recognize a first set of
atomic rules....

At page 2, paragraph 3, the Office Action indicates that claims 4, 5, 13, 14, 22, and 23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1, 10, and 19, from which claims 4, 5, 13, 14, 22, and 23 depend, are amended to incorporate the following language as suggested at page 2, paragraph 2 of the Office Action:

applying an atomic rule to recognize a second set of
the simulation signals;

applying a non-atomic rule to recognize a first set of
atomic rules....

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 10, and 19 are in condition for allowance, as amended. Therefore, at this time Applicant does not believe it is necessary to rewrite claims 4, 5, 13, 14, 22, and 23 in independent form.

Claim 5 is amended to include the word "symbols," which was inadvertently omitted in the previous amendment. As stated above, Applicant submits that claim 5 is in condition for allowance.

At page 3, paragraph 4, the Office Action indicates that claims 1-3, 6, 10-12, 15, 19-21, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over United States Patent No. 5,175,829 to Stumpf et al. (Stumpf) in combination with United States Patent No. 5,479,355 to Hyduke (Hyduke). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection, and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the obviousness rejection.

Claims 1, 10, and 19 are amended to incorporate the following language in the manner suggested at page 2, paragraph 2 of the Office Action to place these claims in allowable form:

applying an atomic rule to recognize a second set of
the simulation signals;

applying a non-atomic rule to recognize a first set of
atomic rules....

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 10, and 19, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Therefore, claims 2, 3, and 6 are allowable at least because of their dependency from 1; claims 11, 12, and 15 are allowable at least because of their dependency from claim 10; and claims 20, 21, and 24 are allowable at least because of their dependency from claim 19. In view of the above amendments,

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Applicant respectfully submits that the obviousness rejection with respect to claims 1-3, 6, 10-12, 15, 19-21, and 24 is rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the obviousness rejection with respect to claims 1-3, 6, 10-12, 15, 19-21, and 24.

Applicant does not otherwise concede, however, the correctness of the rejection to any of the dependent claims discussed above. Applicant respectfully submits that the dependent claims contain additional features that were not discussed above and, therefore, Applicant hereby reserves the right to make additional arguments as may be necessary to further distinguish the dependent claims from the cited references, taken alone or in combination. A detailed discussion of these differences is believed to be unnecessary at this time in view of the basic differences in the independent claims pointed out above.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant submits that claims 1-27 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a timely Notice of Allowance with respect thereto.

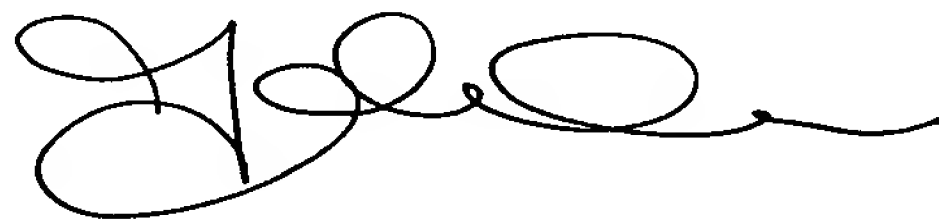
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The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 724-933-3387 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.


Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP



John F. Kacvinsky, Reg. No. 40,040
Under 37 CFR 1.34(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on: 7/26/05.


Rachael Brown

7/26/05
Date

Dated: July 26, 2005
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